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R 281405Z OCT 09  
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
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RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 2393  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 3122  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 3234  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1661  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2495  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 2864  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3282  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 5730  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2414  
RUZEHAA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 HARARE 000857

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B. WALCH  
DRL FOR N. WILETT  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR M. GAVIN  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR L. DOBBINS AND E. LOKEN  
STATE PASS TO DOL FOR S. HALEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [ELAB](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: WAR ENDS WITH WAR: ANOTHER FARMER LOSES THE LONG STRUGGLE  
TO KEEP HIS FARM

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SUMMARY

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11. (SBU) As part of a trip to research the impact of recent farm invasions, poloffs visited farms and farmers in central Zimbabwe on October 21 and 22 (septel). On October 21, we met with Manie and Lucy Grove who, after battling to keep their property since 2002, were homeless just five days after we met them as the result of a ZANU-PF-led invasion. Their farm is one of 78 included in the so-called "Campbell Case" in which the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal ruled in November 2008 that the seizure of the plaintiffs' farms violated the SADC treaty. This latest incursion, and the dozen farmworkers it left homeless and unemployed, is just the latest page in a long and growing history of farm invasions that continue to render Zimbabwe incapable of feeding itself. END SUMMARY.

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Grove Farm Slowly Taken Over  
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12. (SBU) On October 21, as part of a trip through central Zimbabwe to investigate recent farm invasions, we met with embattled farmers Mike Jansen and Hermanus "Manie" Grove and their family members. The Grove farm, Inogo Ranch, is protected under the SADC tribunal ruling and several Zimbabwean court orders. (NOTE: The SADC Tribunal ruled that the seizure of the Campbell's farm and that of 77 other farms violated the SADC treaty in that Amendment 17 to the Zimbabwean constitution precluded access to the courts and the seizures themselves were racist. END NOTE.) Grove explained the history of his farm, which is typical of many of the farms currently

under threat.

13. (SBU) The Groves, who were born in Zimbabwe, purchased the 1700 hectare farm in 1990 when there was little on the land. At the farm's peak, it employed 25 full-time and 30 seasonal employees to work the cattle, dairy, maize, wheat, and barley fields. In 2002 the Groves agreed to a deal with Midlands Provincial Governor Cephas Msipa and the provincial land committee to cede 1,200 hectares to 53 families, including 100 hectares of irrigated land, and five percent of their 2002 crop to new farmers. In 2005, the Groves applied for reallocation of the remaining 500 hectares, according to new legislation. Around the same time, a Mr. Marwisa arrived at the farm asserting that he had an offer letter from the government entitling him to the land. In December 2005, a delegation of provincial and local officials visited the farm and told Grove he had a right to stay on the land, as he had already ceded land to new farmers.

14. (SBU) Several months later, in 2006, local lawyer, ZANU-PF stalwart, and reported Emmerson Mnangagwa confidant, Martin Makonese visited the farm and asserted that he, too, had an offer letter for the property, including the home. Throughout 2006 and 2007, the Groves and their ever-dwindling staff suffered beatings, arson of the barley crop, and continued disdain for court orders, largely at the instigation of Makonese and his two "farm managers" who forcibly took up residence on the farm. For example, in November 2007, the Groves, their adult son and their staff were beaten by Makonese and Marwisa's hired gang of about 35 people. Grove needed 13 stitches for a cut on his head. Earlier this year, one of the farm workers suffered a broken arm after Makonese's men beat him.

HARARE 00000857 002 OF 003

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Threats Escalate:  
"War Ends With War"  
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15. (SBU) Since February 2009, the legal battle and intimidation against the Groves have escalated. On February 18, Manie Grove was summoned to appear in court the next day to face charges of illegally occupying state land. Although the case was deferred to give his lawyer time to prepare for trial, Grove was arrested on Friday February 20 and held in jail over the weekend without charge. During that time, Makonese told his family that if they paid US\$25,000 to the magistrate, the case would be resolved. The Groves refused and subsequently successfully moved the case to the Supreme Court, where it is still pending.

16. (SBU) Several weeks later, in March, the Groves' lawyer, Malina Matshiya, was arrested and held for five hours for her continued involvement in defending the Groves. In May, several tons of soybeans, maize and sorghum were stolen from the fields. The police continue to refuse to investigate theft, violence, and harassment on the farm. When we met on October 21, the Groves told us that they were ready to plant this year's crops "yesterday," including barley which was already contracted to a local beer producer. However, the continued disruptions and threats prevented them from planting anything for the coming season. Grove showed us a picture of one of the buildings Makonese's men had taken over that was adorned with a ZANU-PF flag and threatening graffiti: "war ends with war."

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Reprisal  
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13. (SBU) The day after we met the Groves in Kwekwe, a group of 20-40 ZANU-PF supporters invaded their farm at 5:00 a.m. The invaders arrived in a truck owned by Makonese and broke the lock to the yard that contains the Groves' home and workshop. Lucie Grove told us that she saw one of her workers sprinting "for his life" from his compound to the forest as he was chased by three of the men. His fate remains unknown. Manie Grove and his son took turns attempting to reason with the group while Lucie Grove sat in the

kitchen with a firearm, ready to defend herself if the group was able to enter the house. According to the Groves, the men received fresh supplies of beer throughout the day delivered by Makonese's truck, which, when not occupied, was parked in the Groves' yard. The men reportedly continued to get louder and more belligerent throughout the day.

¶14. (SBU) The Groves' lawyer repeatedly sought help from the Kwekwe police, who refused to act, claiming they did not have a vehicle. (NOTE: We spent roughly one hour in Kwekwe on October 22 and saw two police vehicles circulating in town. END NOTE.) In a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe the morning of October 22, the Charge raised the issue of the invasion of the Groves' farm. Polecon chief did likewise in a phone call to Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara later in the morning. Nevertheless at 6:00 p.m. on October 22, a lone police officer arrived to tell the Groves that there was nothing he could do.

¶15. (SBU) On the morning of October 23, a leading ZANU-PF figure from Kwekwe known as Makumbe (possibly the local head of the war

HARARE 00000857 003 OF 003

veterans) arrived at the farm and told the Groves that they had to leave before sun-down or they would be forced off. Before driving away he told Manie Grove that he was bringing the men "more beer and marijuana."

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Al-Jazeera Confronts Makonese  
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¶16. (U) That afternoon, a television crew from Al-Jazeera, led by Zimbabwean correspondent Haru Mutasa, went to Makonese's office in Kwekwe to ask him about the ongoing invasion. At Mutasa's behest, Makonese accompanied her to the farm where he reiterated his claim that he had a right to the land, despite the SADC Tribunal's ruling. He tried to portray the ZANU-PF supporters in the yard as peaceful, but the crowd of drunken men and their ZANU-PF flags indicated otherwise.

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Grove Confronts Defiant Mnangagwa  
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¶17. (SBU) On the morning of Saturday October 24, Manie and Lucie Grove drove to the home of their Member of Parliament, Defense Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa, to confront him about the ongoing land invasion. Makonese, Makumbe, and other farm invaders in the Midlands and Masvingo areas, in particular, have been affiliated with the powerful minister. According to the Groves' adult daughter, Mnangagwa told the Groves that he would not intervene or stop the eviction because the Groves had taken their court case to SADC (a reference to their participation in the Campbell case). He asked the Groves, "Who do you think you are, taking the government to court?"

¶18. (SBU) Shortly after the Groves returned to the farm, the men forced their way into the house and began throwing the Groves' personal belongings into the yard. Throughout Saturday evening, Sunday, and Monday, the Groves were allowed to remove most personal belongings, their dogs and heirlooms from the home where they have lived for 30 years. They are negotiating to remove the tools from their shed and remaining furniture from the house.

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COMMENT  
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¶19. (SBU) The events of October 22-24 marked the bitter end of the Groves' seven-year fight to keep their farm. Although the legal battle still technically continues in court, ZANU-PF ultimately won the more important battle of physical force on the farm. It appears increasingly clear that ZANU-PF, largely led by Mnangagwa and his cronies, is hell-bent on eliminating white farmers, regardless of the SADC Tribunal ruling and international pressure. The Groves,

like many other white farmers, tried every avenue available to them in order to protect their property and workers: Zimbabwean courts, regional courts, diplomatic pressure, the international press, and, Qregional courts, diplomatic pressure, the international press, and, finally, direct confrontation of Mnangagwa himself. These sad events, while not new, are a reminder of just how far Zimbabwe has to go to bring things right again, and of the important role SADC could play in helping restore rule of law by pressuring ZANU-PF to respect both Zimbabwean and SADC courts. END COMMENT.

PETTERSON